

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
MEADE COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2009**



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
www.auditor.ky.gov**

**209 ST. CLAIR STREET
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1817
TELEPHONE (502) 564-5841
FACSIMILE (502) 564-2912**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE MEADE COUNTY CLERK

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2009**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Meade County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2009. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$8,132 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$165,559 as of December 31, 2009. Revenues decreased by \$245,799 from the prior year and expenditures decreased by \$237,667.

Deposits:

The County Clerk's deposits as of September 3, 2009, were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$50,732

The County Clerk's deposits were covered by FDIC insurance and a properly executed collateral security agreement, but the bank did not adequately collateralize the County Clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

CONTENTS

PAGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	1
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS	3
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT	6
REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS	11



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Harry Craycroft, Meade County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Katrina Fitzgerald, Meade County Clerk
Members of the Meade County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Meade County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2009. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated March 24, 2010 on our consideration of the Meade County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Harry Craycroft, Meade County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Katrina Fitzgerald, Meade County Clerk
Members of the Meade County Fiscal Court

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Meade County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

March 24, 2010

MEADE COUNTY
KATRINA FITZGERALD, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2009

Revenues

State Fees For Services	\$	8,346	
Fiscal Court			9,045
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	835,048	
Usage Tax		1,616,567	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		1,785,174	
Other-			
Marriage Licenses		8,946	
Occupational Licenses		6,713	
Duplicate Registration		528	
Other		140	
Deed Transfer Tax		56,364	
Delinquent Tax		401,428	
		4,710,908	
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts		31,760	
Real Estate Mortgages		53,051	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		61,538	
Affordable Housing Trust		35,688	
All Other Recordings		18,453	
Charges for Other Services-			
Candidate Filing Fees		900	
Notary Fee		7,549	
Postage		1,543	
Accommodations		2,959	
Miscellaneous		458	
Copywork		12,878	
		226,777	
Interest Earned			773
Total Revenues			4,955,849

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MEADE COUNTY
KATRINA FITZGERALD, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2009
(Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 581,968

Usage Tax 1,567,632

Tangible Personal Property Tax 624,164

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Delinquent Tax 57,884

Legal Process Tax 61,204 \$ 2,892,852

Payments to Fiscal Court

Tangible Personal Property Tax 170,666

Delinquent Tax 52,643

Deed Transfer Tax 53,546

Occupational Licenses 5,104 281,959

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax 906,170

Delinquent Tax 170,522 1,076,692

Payments to Sheriff 29,676

Payments to County Attorney 53,873

Operating Expenditures:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries 198,755

Employee Benefits-

Employer's Share Social Security 19,234

Employer's Share Retirement 42,283

Employer's Paid Health Insurance 28,561

Contracted Services-

Copier Maintenance 5,554

Printing and Binding 2,377

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MEADE COUNTY
 KATRINA FITZGERALD, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2009
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures: (Continued)

Materials and Supplies-			
Office Supplies	\$	20,024	
Other Charges-			
Print Tax Bills		5,586	
Conventions and Travel		3,604	
Refunds		2,277	
Postage		9,369	
NADA Books		652	
Computer Services		24,660	
Miscellaneous		500	
Accommodations		5,297	
			\$ 368,733
Total Expenditures			<u>\$ 4,703,785</u>
Net Revenues			252,064
Less: Statutory Maximum			<u>79,380</u>
Excess Fees			172,684
Less: Expense Allowance		3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit		3,525	<u>7,125</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2009			165,559
Payment to Fiscal Court - March 10, 2010			<u>165,559</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

MEADE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2009

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2009 services
- Reimbursements for 2009 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2009

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

MEADE COUNTY
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 2009
 (Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 13.19 percent for the first six months and 16.17 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Meade County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Meade County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2009, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement. However, as of September 3, 2009, public funds were exposed to custodial credit risk because the bank did not adequately collateralize the County Clerk's deposits in accordance with the security agreement.

- Uncollateralized and Uninsured \$ 50,732

MEADE COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2009
(Continued)

Note 4. Lease

The Office of the County Clerk was committed to a lease agreement with Major Imaging Systems for two copiers. The agreement requires a monthly payment of \$186 for 48 months to be completed on February 7, 2011. The total balance of the agreement was \$2,481 as of December 31, 2009.

Note 5. Change Fund

The Meade County Clerk's office has a \$500 Change Fund that will be re-deposited upon the completion of her term.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Harry Craycroft, Meade County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Katrina Fitzgerald, Meade County Clerk
Members of the Meade County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Meade County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated March 24, 2010. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Meade County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Meade County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2009, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Meade County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crit Luallen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

March 24, 2010

